

What is claimed is:

1. An automatic document feeder for transferring an original through a reading position, comprising:

5 first transport means disposed at an upstream side of the reading position in an original transfer direction for transporting the original to the reading position;

second transport means disposed at a downstream side of the reading position in the original transfer direction for transporting the original passing through the reading position;

10 a curved reading path extending from the first transport means to the second transport means;

a reading guide unit including as one unit a first guide member for guiding the original from the first transport means to the reading position; a second guide member for guiding the original passing through the reading position to the second transport means; and a transparent film member formed of a flexible material for forming at least a part of the curved reading path between the first guide member and the second guide member; and

20 support means attached to the reading guide unit for supporting the same.

2. An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said support means supports the reading guide unit detachably to  
25 the automatic document feeder.

3. An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said first guide member and said second guide member are made of plastic and integrally molded together.

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4. An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said transparent film member is arranged along a document guiding surface of the first guide member.

5 5. An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, further comprising tension applying means attached to at least one end of the transparent film member for supporting the at least one end in the original transfer direction and applying tension to the transparent film member.

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6. An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said transparent film member has an edge separated into a plurality of pieces in a width direction at a downstream side in the original transfer direction, a portion of the separated edge  
15 extending toward a guiding side of the second guide member, the other portion of the separated edge extending toward a back surface of the second guide member.

7. An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein  
20 said support means supports the reading guide unit rotatably to the automatic document feeder.

8. An automatic document feeder according to claim 7, wherein said support means includes a support shaft attached to a frame  
25 of the automatic document feeder for rotatably supporting the reading guide unit to the frame.

9. An automatic document feeder according to claim 8, wherein said reading guide unit includes an engagement portion for

engaging the support shaft so that the engagement portion is detachable relative to the support shaft.

10. A document reading apparatus for reading an original,  
5 comprising,

a reading unit including a platen for placing the original, and reading means situated under the platen, said reading means being able to move to read the original placed on the platen and being stationary to read the original passing through a reading  
10 position on the platen,

an original transfer unit disposed on the reading unit, and including first transport means for transporting the original to the reading position, and second transport means for discharging the original passing through the reading position; and

15 a reading guide unit rotatably attached to the original transfer unit and including a first guide member for guiding the original from the first transport means to the reading position, a second guide member for guiding the original passing through the reading position to the second transport means; and a  
20 transparent film member situated between the first guide member and the second guide member.

11. A document reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said original transfer unit includes a support shaft, and said  
25 reading guide unit includes an engagement portion for engaging the support shaft so that the engagement portion is detachably attached to the support shaft.